

## Alaska Telephone Association

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December 10, 2010

### Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *The National Broadband Plan*, WC Docket No. 10-90, GN Docket No. 09-51, WC Docket No. 05-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 7, 2010 Greg Berberich, CEO of Matanuska Telephone Association, and I met with Carol Matthey, Elise Kohn, Patrick Halley and Joseph Cavender of the Wireline Competition Bureau. We expressed some of the same concerns that the Alaska Telephone Association has raised in its comments filed in this proceeding including a fear that rural Americans will experience a real degradation of telecommunications service if high-cost universal service support is withdrawn from the carriers of last resort. We mentioned the chill felt by the industry of uncertain revenue streams and recovery of investment. We also opined on the efficiency of placing the most modern form of connectivity in an open trench due to the relative cost of the materials as compared with the costs of opening that trench. Finally, the cap on high-cost USF has put rural companies in a situation that is not sustainable as line loss creates diminished recovery without commensurate reductions in network expenses.

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with these members of the Bureau and the exchange of ideas that took place.

Sincerely,



Jim Rowe  
Executive Director  
Alaska Telephone Association

cc: Carol Matthey  
Elise Kohn  
Patrick Halley  
Joseph Cavender